



# Columbia County Central Laboratory

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## Well Water Testing Customer Information

Effective 1-4-00

Customers needing a well tested to close on a house usually need a Total Coliform Bacteria test. To have a well tested for coliform bacteria, the customer must:

1. Pay for and receive a sterilized bottle at the Waterworks office. The cost is \$15.00.
2. Collect the sample without letting anything but the well water touch the inside of the bottle.
3. Complete the following label information and affix label to sample container:
  - a. Date (of sample collection)
  - b. Time (of sample collection)
  - c. Sampling Point (address of well)
  - d. Sampler's Initials
  - e. Name OF PERSON WHO OWNS THE WELL
  - f. Phone Number (to contact if sample is positive)
4. Return the sample to the Central Lab **THE SAME DAY IT IS COLLECTED**. The lab accepts samples Monday - Thursday. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAY or THE DAY BEFORE A COUNTY HOLIDAY.**
5. Call the lab no sooner than 24 hours after delivering the sample to the lab (if the sample was left at the Administration building, it may be more than 24 hours) to learn the results of the test. If the sample tested negative, the customer may pick up a letter from the lab **AFTER CALLING** to tell us when he will pick it up. It is important for the lab to know when a customer is coming because both lab analysts may be out collecting samples, and there would be no one in to give him the letter. If the customer calls first, and we know we may be out, we can leave the letter in the lobby of the lab for the customer to pick up.

If the sample tests positive, the well will have to be retested. **The lab cannot give the customer a**

**letter saying the well is OK until a retest is negative.** For the retest, the customer may pick up another bottle at the laboratory. The lab will perform one free retest.

Also, if the sample tests positive, the County recommends that the customer disinfect the well with chlorine bleach before collecting another sample. There is detailed information on the disinfection procedure at the lab, and the customer may get a copy when he picks up the retest bottle.